

The Oregonian.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1866.

CAPE HORN'S STATE JEW.

The assertion of Capt. Gibbs that he has no thought of leaving the Columbia without a pilot or tug with him, is weighty, whatever the facts in the case, it is not to be supposed that he would not do so if his own safety were at stake. In this case, it is right to consider the acts and omissions as they appear to me to be, or than those statements from the other side. Now Capt. Gibbs, referring to the success with which he intended to sail away that night, said that idea ever entered his head. If not, why did he take the risk as he was? Was it not a disappointment or a loss to the captives? If Capt. Gibbs was really anxious, he may say so, but I do not know why he did not take the captain and mate along. It is evidently forgot that the right of sailing did not rest with him, but with the master of his last ship or with those who sent him. The captain is not clear about his next step. He would like under the circumstances to arrive home, but his engagement by the delay of another day. Since the captain is not specific we cannot allow the failure of the case to have much weight. Looking over the whole case, considering the time of year and the state of the weather with all the circumstances and interests involved, we cannot but believe that Capt. Gibbs's statement is an invention designed and put forth to excuse him from blame.

It is very common thing for ship masters to leave but sail about outside sea ports. In this case there easily seems delays and expense growing out of every circumstance. Many of the grievances reported against the Columbia river, when hunted down, are found to have originated in this way. The case in hand is one of these. Capt. Gibbs has lost a valuable ship and a valuable cargo through his own folly in attempting a small and chubby trick. He had played this trick successfully before, and in trying it again failed. He now seeks to exculpate himself by a statement which, at the very least, is uncreditable.

THE IMPROVEMENT IN LIVERPOOL.

The improvement in the lumber business, so noticeable on Puget sound and on the lower Columbia river, is due to the development of the foreign and eastern trade. The demand on the coast continues slack and prices low, but in the Eastern states, in Cuba, in Australia and in the South American countries there has sprung up a demand which promises steady and remunerative employment to the mills. This situation has not come about of itself, but through the enterprise of mill men in seeking out and developing markets formerly not known to our lumber.

This revival is one of the signs of returning good times. It is particularly fortunate for Puget sound where the business pulse of the country rises and falls with the lumber market. An active market with activity in the mills means employment to all who want it and a market for the products of the country. It makes the difference between good and bad times and helps the clue quite as much as the country. It is, however, an unfortunate circumstance of our great lumber business that it is not the chief industry of the country. The large mills are overstocked, every lumberman and non-resident who engages the profits and carry them away to the other states. The mercantile profits commented above are really greater than the direct profits, but it is to be regretted that, in losing a few states we do not get the whole of the wealth which they yield.

It is a mistake to imagine that our forests are inexhaustible. They are going at a rate which in a quarter of a century will leave the country bare in many districts of Puget sound and on the lower Columbia river. It is found necessary already to go back some miles from water for good timber. Railroads have become absolutely essential to large operations and they are working hard to open up the way before them. It is only a question of time when timber instead of being superabundant and cheap will be rare and valuable.

AN ACTIVE COMPETITOR.

The line of the Oregon Pacific railroad company is being pushed forward rapidly and in a few weeks will be across the Willamette river into Linn county. Much of the grading for the Albany extension is already done, the bridge at Albany is under construction and the iron is on the ground. It is said to be the purpose of the company to work eastward toward a transcontinental connection, and, if plans do not fail, the line will reach the western slope of the Cascades this season. Of the eastern connection we are doing nothing but it is not clear that from this time on the Oregon Pacific will be a factor in the transcontinental traffic, even if it never builds another mile of road. It stretches east and west across the Willamette valley, and, by using the river is able to furnish for a considerable distance north and south—all this quite independent of existing lines which are not friendly with it and from which it gets no favor. It is making rates on freight, both inward and outward, which it charges that formerly for the lumber to get his goods, and cheaper for the lumber to market his wheat. This road is a sad loss to the port of Portland, but it will be a benefit to the valley, and will run a benefit that will put freight rates down and keep them down.

The road to the interior transports companies there are, therefore, bound to fit the new rail. The Oregon Pacific is the competitor and has been doing a very active traffic in the interior, but the railroads are costing them and their large amount of business. It would be more to the point to say that they will not be able to sustain the field. I say it is not because there is not a market, but because the railroads are not able to sustain the field.

CIVILIZATION.

Small pox has appeared in several parts of Iowa, and is causing great alarm. It spread out of the criminal neglect of three physicians who in turn visited a woman stricken with the disease and omitted to vaccinate the child. Six families are found to have been exposed in the same house, where no precautions whatever had been taken to prevent the spread of the disease. In consequence of this neglect the disease has a firm foothold in most of the state, and a general epidemic is apprehended. This shameful situation is attributed largely to the absurd conduct of certain so-called physicians who encourage the ignorant distrust of vaccination by quoting a spurious case of evil results from the careless use of impure virus against the overwhelming testimony in favor of vaccination. The city of New York with over a million inhabitants suffers little from small pox, since it has been eradicated by medical vigilance and a general epizemic is apprehended. This is the result of the ignorance of the people, who are not afraid to take a dose of small pox vaccine, and the district attorney of Baltimore reports that "after the first conviction the crime ceased as if by magic in that state." White wife healing is not yet so prevalent among the newer states of the country there is always and everywhere need of a better protection of wives from woes that are not generated by the attraction of social filth and iniquities in the swarming tenement houses of the great cities of the East. There is such a thing as abusing a wife without being guilty of rape, but the husband has the spiritual substance of success, his full duty fairly done, instead of the deceitful shadow of soubornation, which, whether successful or not in putting off gains, always leaves the man at last a miserable failure.

ANTI-SLAVERY.

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ANTI-SLAVERY.

One might suppose from reading the documents of the Puget sound papers in the issue of the W. H. Besse at the entrance of the Columbia river, that it was a rare thing indeed for a vessel safely to enter the river and that upon its arrival there would be no difficulty. But vessels may be wrecked on rocks and not a few have been lost, also the State of Washington is the case of the Besse it was a nothing but a want of common prudence. The master who lets his ship drift ashore is a fool. His son over day is superfluous, not to speak about being at anchor an excuse.

It is now shown that upon the arrival in Washington Territory in the late "local option" election there was an actual majority for prohibition of 18% and this though no vote was taken in many of the rural precincts. In the towns there was a full vote, and in most of them large anti-prohibition majorities. It is apparent that almost if not the entire anti-prohibition vote was polled, while it is certain that

LETTER PROTECTION OF WIVES.

NEW.

TO-DAY.

NEW.

